



# SHELL RESOURCE AREA

## SUMMARY

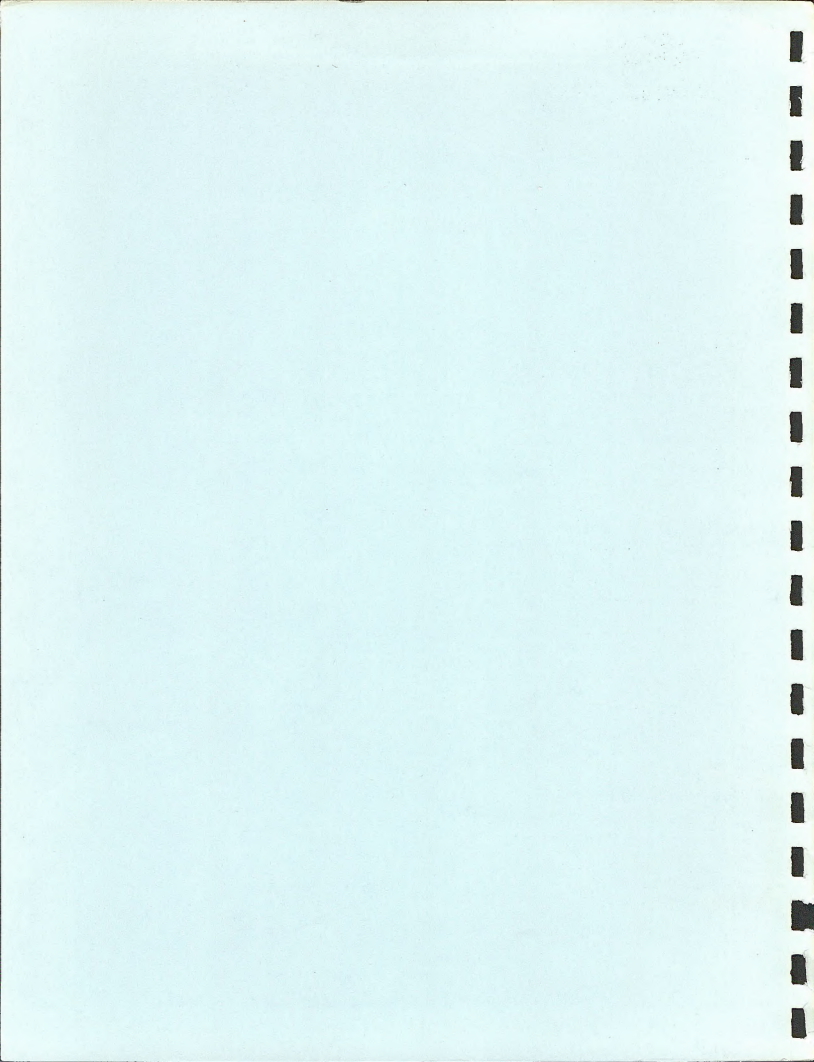
## WILDERNESS

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ELY DISTRICT



QH  
76.5  
.N3  
S33  
1983  
Suppl.



# SUMMARY

BLM Library  
D-653A, Building 50  
Denver Federal Center  
P. O. Box 25047  
Denver, CO 80225-0047

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## PURPOSE

Federal law requires the Bureau of Land Management to study all areas of public land with wilderness characteristics to determine the suitability of each for designation as wilderness. In the Schell Resource Area, eight areas with wilderness characteristics (totaling 424,583 acres) have been identified. This Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement examines the suitability of each of these wilderness study areas (WSAs), and studies the impacts to the environment of designating five different combinations of areas as wilderness. This study will be used by the decision-makers in making wilderness recommendations and decisions.

## ISSUE

Each WSA possesses wilderness values, but each also contains other resource values, the development or extraction of which would be detrimental to wilderness values. A determination must be made as to which resource an area would be better used for, the wilderness resource or the competing resource(s). This is the main issue to be resolved.

If it is determined that the "highest and best use" of an area is as wilderness, then the area will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. If it is determined that a use which is incompatible with the wilderness resource is the highest and best use, then the area will be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

## ALTERNATIVES

The five different combinations of areas that are studied range from a No Wilderness Alternative to an All Wilderness Alternative (see Table S-1). Implementation of the No Wilderness Alternative will result in no wilderness designations, and the All Wilderness Alternative will result in designation of all eight WSAs as wilderness. A Limited Wilderness Alternative recommends for wilderness only the areas with the highest wilderness values, lowest conflicts

with other resources, and most manageable boundaries. A Wilderness Emphasis Alternative recommends for wilderness designation all areas with wilderness values, excluding only the areas with the greatest manageability problems and the highest conflicts with other resources.

The Preferred Alternative is an alternative that eliminates most conflicts while recommending for designation most manageable areas with good wilderness values. It recommends as suitable portions of the Far South Egans, Parsnip Peak, Worthington Mountains, and Weepah Spring WSAs, and the entire White Rock Range WSA. It recommends as unsuitable the Mount Grafton, Fortification Range, and Table Mountain WSAs.

TABLE S-1

AREAS AND ACRES RECOMMENDED  
SUITABLE FOR DESIGNATION, BY  
ALTERNATIVE

	WSAs RECOMMENDED SUITABLE	ACRES RECOMMENDED SUITABLE
ALL WILDERNESS	8 (ENTIRE)	424,583
WILDERNESS EMPHASIS	6 (PARTIAL) 1 (ENTIRE)	288,446
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	4 (PARTIAL) 1 (ENTIRE)	188,707
LIMITED WILDERNESS	4 (PARTIAL)	114,023
NO WILDERNESS	0	0

## SCOPING

A public scoping period was held from July 23 to September 10, 1982 during which time all interested persons were invited to comment on the alternatives developed for the EIS. As a result of comments received,

TABLE S-2: IMPACTS SUMMARY

	Minerals/Energy	Wilderness	Range	Wildlife	Recreation/ Visual Resources
ALL WILDERNESS	Mineral potential removed: 27.3% high, 6.8% medium, 5.6 speculative  O/G potential removed: 1.3% high, 3% medium, 9.4% speculative  Geothermal potential removed: 12.8% SAI	6 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected SBI	6 proposed range improvements dis- allowed  Future projects may be disallowed  Costs may increase NSI	Habitat preserved  Restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Beneficial impact to primitive and semi primitive recreation NSI  Protection of visual resources SBI
WILDERNESS EMPHASIS	Mineral potential removed: 9% high, 1.5% medium, 5.2% speculative  O/G potential removed: .1% high, 1.4% medium, .8% speculative  Geothermal potential removed: 6.7% SAI	6 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected SBI	Same as All Wil- derness except future projects impacted less NSI	Habitat preserved  Restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Same as All Wilderness SBI
PREFERRED	Mineral potential removed: 5.3% high, .7% medium, 3.4% speculative  O/G potential removed: 0% high, .8% medium, .8% speculative  Geothermal potential removed: 1% SAI	4 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected 2 WSAs lose pro- tection SAI and SBI	Same as All Wil- derness except future projects im- pacted less NSI	Some habitat preserved, some lost  Some habitat pre- served, some lost  Some Restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Beneficial impacts to primitive and semi primitive recreation in suit- able areas, adverse in unsuitable areas NSI  Protection of visual resources SBI
LIMITED WILDERNESS	Mineral potential removed: 3.5% high, 0% medium, 2% speculative  O/G potential removed: 0% high, .8% medium, 0% speculative  Geothermal potential removed: .4% NSI	2 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected 3 WSAs lose pro- tection 1 WSA Impaired even though suit- able SAI and SBI	3 proposed range improvements disallowed  Future projects may be disallowed  Costs may increase NSI	Most habitat lost, some pre- served  Few restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Adverse impacts to primitive and semi- primitive recreation in unsuitable areas, beneficial impacts in suitable areas NSI  Some protection of visual resources SBI
NO WILDERNESS	No Impacts	6 WSAs lose pro- tection 2 WSAs unaffected SAI	No Impacts	Habitat protec- tion lost  No restrictions on habitat conversion NSI	Adverse impacts to primitive and semi primitive recreation.  Adverse impacts to visual resources NSI

Forestry	Lands	Cultural Resources	Soil/Water	Wild Horses	Social Attitudes	Economic Impacts	
22% of manageable woodland in Schell RA removed	Communication sites disallowed in 4 WSAs with potential	Beneficial and adverse general impacts. Specific beneficial impacts in Worthingtons. NSI	Beneficial impacts by limiting disturbance NSI	Slight beneficial impact—preserves habitat and free roaming nature NSI	Strong local opposition—strong conservation support NSI	Minor beneficial impacts to trades and services  Minor adverse impacts to livestock, mining and state revenues NSI	ALL WILDERNESS
Some protection of special resources SAI	Conflicts with proposed rail corridor in Grafton NSI						
10% of manageable woodland in Schell RA removed	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Beneficial impacts by limiting disturbance in suitable areas, adverse in unsuitable NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Local opposition—strong conservation support NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	WILDERNESS EMPHASIS
Some protection of special resources NSI							
7% of manageable woodland in Schell RA removed	Communication sites disallowed in 2 WSAs with potential NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Same as Wilderness Emphasis—fewer beneficial impacts NSI	Same as All Wilderness to lesser extent NSI	Mixed support NSI	Minor beneficial impacts to trades and services  Very minor adverse impact to livestock, mining and state revenues NSI	PREFERRED
Some protection of special resources NSI							
5% of manageable woodland in Schell RA removed	Communication sites disallowed in 1 WSA with potential NSI	Beneficial and adverse general impacts. Specific adverse impacts in Worthingtons. NSI	Same as Wilderness Emphasis—fewer beneficial impacts NSI	Few beneficial impacts NSI	Mixed local support—conservation opposition NSI	Same as Preferred NSI	LIMITED WILDERNESS
Some protection of special resources NSI							
No Impacts	No Impacts	Same as Limited Wilderness NSI	Minor adverse impacts from increased disturbance NSI	No Impacts	Mixed local support—strong conservation opposition NSI	No Impacts	NO WILDERNESS

NSI = No Significant Impacts  
SAI = Significant Adverse Impacts  
SBI = Significant Beneficial Impacts

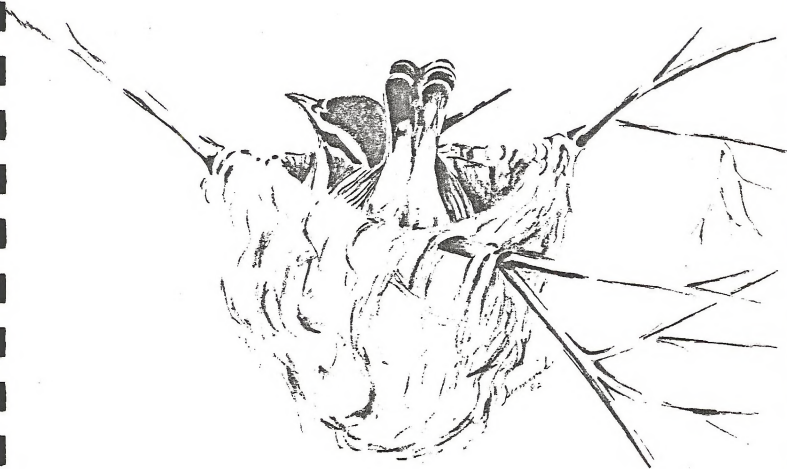




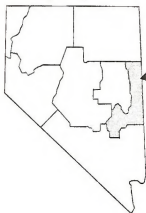
the Wilderness Emphasis Alternative was formulated and included for study.

## MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that there will be no significant impacts to range, recreation, cultural resources, wildlife, wild horses, soil, water, air, or lands in any alternative. Additionally, there will be no significant economic or social impacts. Significant impacts will occur to forestry, energy and minerals, wilderness and visual resources in the different alternatives as described in Table S-2.



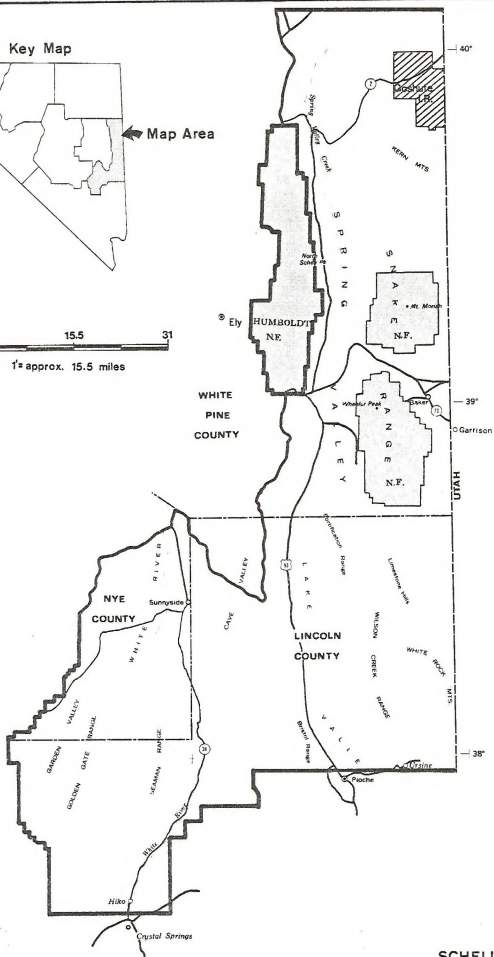
Key Map



Map Area

0 15.5 31

1" = approx. 15.5 miles



SCHELL RESOURCE AREA  
LOCATION MAP



Availability of Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be sent to everyone who requests a copy and their substantive comments will be treated in a comments and responses section of the Preliminary Final EIS.

Copies of the DEIS will be available for review at the following offices and libraries (\* indicates address to write for copies of the EIS).

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICES**

Office of Public Affairs, BLM  
18th and C Streets  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Nevada State Office  
300 Booth Street  
P. O. Box 12000  
Reno, Nevada 89520

Battle Mountain District Office  
North 2nd and South Scott Streets  
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

Caliente Resource Area Office  
Highway 93 South  
Caliente, Nevada 89008

Carson City District Office  
1050 E. Williams Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Elko District Office  
2002 Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Ely District Office\*  
Star Route 5, Box 1  
Ely, Nevada 89301

Las Vegas District Office  
4765 West Vegas Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Tonopah Resource Area Office  
Building 102 Military Circle  
Tonopah, Nevada 89049

Winnemucca District Office  
705 East 4th Street  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Utah State Office, BLM  
136 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Cedar City District Office, BLM  
1579 N. Main St.  
P. O. Box 729  
Cedar City, Utah 84720

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

White Pine County Library  
Campton Street  
Ely, Nevada 89301

Lincoln County Library  
Caliente, Nevada 89008

Lincoln County Library  
Pioche, Nevada 89043

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
James R. Dickinson Library  
4505 Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154

University of Nevada, Reno  
Getchell Library  
Reno, Nevada 89507

**HEARINGS**

Public hearings will be held on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Reno, Nevada on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Hotel; Ely, Nevada on May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristlecone Convention Center; and Pioche, Nevada on May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln County Courthouse.

Bureau of Land Management  
Library  
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225

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Form 1279-3  
June 1964)

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Schell Resource Area

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